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**To:** Chief Academic Officers and Provosts

**From:** Dr. Paula Compton, Associate Vice Chancellor, Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network

**Date:** October 31, 2022

**Subject:** Industry Recognized Credential Transfer Assurance Guide (ITAG): Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC)

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I am pleased to announce a new Industry Recognized Credential Transfer Assurance Guide (ITAG) for Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC).

ITAGs are a statewide transfer initiative that guarantees the award of college-level credit to students earning agreed-upon industry-recognized credentials. The ITAG policy was approved by the Chancellor in February 2021. Students meeting credentialing requirements, regardless of where the learning was achieved, will be eligible to earn credit for specified courses deemed equivalent by faculty and endorsed by Ohio's public institutions of higher education. To reduce variability in the transfer credit evaluation and application process, a set of college-level learning outcomes will be established for each ITAG. The learning outcomes, which will be aligned with applicable third-party program accreditation, credentialing, and/or other industry standards, will be vetted by faculty and industry as needed.

This memo provides an overview of the PLC ITAG, outlines the endorsement process, and addresses expected compliance of postsecondary institutions.

### **Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) ITAG Endorsement**

All ITAG panels comprise postsecondary faculty, industry representatives as needed, and educators from Ohio Technical Centers (OTCs) and/or Secondary Career-Technical Centers. All panel members are listed on the last page of the attached ITAG document. A Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) PLC course (OET022) was announced in May 2017. Institutions have submitted documentation demonstrating how their courses meet the OET022 learning outcomes. Submissions are reviewed and approved by a faculty panel of experts.

The same learning outcomes for the TAG were used in the development of the ITAG. An endorsement survey for the ITAG was sent to the Chief Academic Officers and Provosts of all 36 Ohio institutions of higher learning in July 2022, inviting faculty experts to review and comment on the statewide learning outcomes and the alignment of the Siemens SCE Certificate in Automation and Certificate in Advanced Automation and Mitsubishi Electric PLC & HMI certifications. Based on the results of the survey, the ITAG panel recommended to ODHE that the PLC ITAG be approved.



Department of  
Higher Education

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

### **Programmable Logic Controllers ITAG**

The Programmable Logic Controller ITAG allows individuals meeting the requirements below to transfer 3 semester hours of equivalent coursework to an Ohio public institution of higher education, regardless of where the student received the education to prepare for the credentialing exam. To be eligible for credit, students must show proof of earning one of the following:

1. Siemens SCE Certificate in Automation and Certificate in Advanced Automation: Students must hold both of these credentials to be eligible for college credit.
2. Rockwell Automation Studio 5000 Logix Programmer Certificate
3. Mitsubishi Electric PLC & HMI

### **Compliance Expectations**

The PLC ITAG shares a common set of learning outcomes with the PLC TAG, and institutions should continue to submit courses in the Course Equivalency Management System (CEMS) through the TAG approval process. Expected compliance for the PLC ITAG can be viewed using the following link:

<https://transfercredit.ohio.gov/educational-partners/educational-partner-initiatives/itags/itags-compliance>

All courses that are approved for the PLC TAG course (OET022) will automatically be approved for the PLC ITAG (ITEET022). ITEET022 approval for institutions that already have TAG approval for OET022 have already been processed in CEMS, with an effective date of Autumn 2022.

For questions about course equivalency and institutional compliance expectations for the Programmable Logic Controller ITAG, please contact Ben Parrot, Senior Associate Director of Secondary Career-Technical Alignment Initiative Implementation ([BParrot@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:BParrot@highered.ohio.gov)).

For general questions about ITAGs, please contact Nikki Wearly, Director of Career-Technical Education Transfer Initiatives ([NWearly@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:NWearly@highered.ohio.gov)).